

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-12 EUR-25 AID-20 RSR-01 /140 W

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R 150850 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 181

USDEL JEC PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 6360

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: TROUBLE ALONG THE BAC LIEU/ AN XUYEN BORDER

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FM CAN THO AND RPTD FOR INFO QTE:

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MILI, MOPS, VC

SUBJECT: TROUBLE ALONG THE BAC LIEU& AN XUYEN BORDER

REFERENCE: CAN THO 0172

1. THE BAC LIEU AID PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE VISITED RECENTLY LONG DIEN VILLAGE ALONG THE AN XUYEN BORDER IN SOUTHEASTERN BAC LIEU. HE REPORTS THAT THE VILLAGE CHIEF WITH SOME CONCERN DESCRIBED THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN HALF OF HIS VILLAGE AS " CRITICAL". ABOUT 5000 PEOPLE ENGAGED IN RICE FARMING LIVE IN THIS AREA, WHICH INCLUDES SEVERAL VC MINI- BASES THAT ARE EXTENSIONS OF THE LARGER VC NAM CAM BASE AREA IN AN XUYEN.

2. ACCORDING TO THE VILLAGE CHIEF, ON APRIL 2 A 60- MAN UNIT OF THE U MINH 2 BATTALION MOVED ACROSS THE AN XUYEN BORDER TO ASSIST THE VC GIA RAI DISTRICT LOCAL FORCE COMPANY AND LOCAL GUERRILLAS

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IN CONSOLIDATING VC CONTROL IN LONG DIEN. THE VC HAVE STEPPED UP POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND TAX COLLECTION. THE MILITARY SITUATION, ALWAYS SHAKY, HAS BECOME EVEN MORE TENUOUS.

3. ASIDE FROM A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND RICE LANDS, SOUTHERN LONG DIEN ALSO OFFERS THE GANH HAO RIVER WHICH CAN TAKE RIVERINE CRAFT OF UP TO SIX FOOT DRAFTS. A GVN OUTPOST AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER WAS LITERALLY BLOWN AWAY IN A VC MORTAR ATTACK MARCH 14. THIS INCIDENT, AND THE REPORTED APPEARANCE OF THE U MINH 2 FORCE INDICATES THE VC MAY BE TRYING TO USE THE GANH HAO AS AN ENTRY POINT FOR WEAPONS, PERSONNEL, AND SUPPLIES INTO THE AREA. AS REPORTED EARLIER (CAN THO 0140) , THE MR IV G-2 BELIEVES THIS TO BE THE REASON FOR THE STEP- UP IN VC MILITARY ACTIVITY ALONG THE MY THANH FURTHER NORTH AS WELL. BARNES UNQUOTE BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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